

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

FOR

Grant Number G1000180

Phase II Stormwater Pass-through Grant Program

City of Kelso

Total Cost of Project: \$50,000
Grant or Loan Amount: \$50,000

Project Start Date: July 1, 2009
End Date: March 18, 2011
Grant Expiration Date: June 30, 2011

Dennis Richards
City Manager
Authorized Signatory

DATE

Van McKay, P.E.
Senior Engineer
Project Manager

DATE

OVERVIEW DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

This project was to administer and implement the City's stormwater management program (SWMP). The project was to address stormwater management needs that protect water quality through a variety of activities established in the grant agreement, the Phase II municipal stormwater permit (permit), and the City's SWMP.

OUTCOME

Task 1 – Project Administration/Management

The City successfully administered and managed the project. Project records were maintained, progress reports were timely submitted and contracts with consultants were procured and effectively managed.

Task 2 – Implementation and Management of Stormwater Program

A. Below are significant stormwater activities performed by the City during the grant period.

1) Public education and outreach activities

- Mass mailed to all utility accounts within the city a cover letter on stormwater pollution that included an updated citizen's guide to stormwater pollution.
- Created and purchased color ads in local newspapers.
- Completed a follow-up telephone survey on citizen's behaviors and knowledge of stormwater pollution.
- Co-presented with Longview to Lower Columbia College on stormwater quality.
- Co-hosted with Longview stormwater manual workshops and a rain garden workshop.
- Continually updated the City's stormwater webpage on many of the City's activities.

2) Public involvement and participation activities

- Conducted nine meetings with the Kelso Stormwater Advisory Committee.

3) Illicit discharge detection and elimination program activities

- Procured a consultant through competitive bid to develop a geo-relational GIS database, develop stormwater system mapping and to draft a stormwater master plan. The consultant is currently working on the project.
- Hung doorknob flyers on residences with large leafy trees concerning illicit leaf discharges.
- Investigated complaints of IDDE discharges including documentation and enforcement of violations.
- Installed storm drain markers at catch basins in the City.

4) Activities to support programs to control runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction sites

- Met many times with Cowlitz County and Longview and their stormwater advisory committees to coordinate efforts and develop stormwater management programs, ordinances, manuals and other permit required documents.
- Revised stormwater sections of the Kelso Engineering Design Manual twice.

5) Pollution prevention, good housekeeping, and operation and maintenance program activities

- Performed quarterly inspections required in the Operations Maintenance Facility stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP).
- Performed training for Operations employees on the SWPPP and those whose construction, operations or maintenance job functions may impact stormwater quality.

6) Annual reporting activities

The City timely submitted the 2009 annual report that was deemed satisfactory by Ecology. The permit requirement to summarize barriers to the use of low impact development was not completed. It will be included in the 2010 annual report due March 30, 2011.

7) Equipment purchases that result directly in improved compliance with permit requirements

- The City has not yet purchased software dedicated to tracking permit implementation activities. The City contracted with a consultant who is currently developing a geo-relational GIS database of the City's stormwater drainage system. Later this year the consultant will make recommendations on software to purchase.

B. Water Quality and Environmental Outcomes

The City anticipates better stormwater quality as result of this project. All stormwater quality parameters were addressed in our program activities and the BMPs installed and implemented are listed above. The most significant BMPs during this grant agreement period include installation of catch basin markers, training of field staff, mailing stormwater pollution guides to citizens, performing a telephone survey and meeting with local jurisdictions to develop stormwater management programs, ordinances, manuals and other permit required documents. The City anticipates improvements in a broad number of stormwater pollution parameters as our educational efforts cover a broad range of pollutant-reducing actions.

Also, quality assurance data from monitoring activities are not included in this report. Monitoring for stormwater pollutants was not required by the grant agreement or permit and the City did not perform in-water monitoring.

C. Performance Items and Deliverables

The action items that played an integral role in implementation of the project include coordination of efforts with the City of Longview and Cowlitz County and our educational and outreach activities. The outreach activities included advertising in local newspapers, installation of catch basin markers, distribution of our citizen's guide to stormwater pollution, hosting workshops, and drafting permit required documents.

EVALUATION

The project was a success and grant monies were wisely spent. Grant agreement and permit requirements were developed and implemented. In order to reduce stormwater pollution in the City, citizens must understand stormwater pollution, its causes and how it can be prevented. The significance of the project's outcome is that people are becoming more aware of stormwater pollution and are changing their behavior. This has been statistically proven by telephone surveys on stormwater pollution.

The City hired a consultant to perform two telephone surveys that stand as an objective measure of citizen's knowledge on stormwater pollution and adoption of preventative practices. A baseline survey was performed in 2008 and a follow-up survey was performed in late 2010. The latter survey revealed that several significant improvements have taken place with the public and with businesses. It also showed that the City's efforts on public education made genuine progress on a number of issues. For example, about one in three members of the public would now call the Stormwater Pollution Hotline—all due to our educational efforts. The follow-up survey also indicates that the City still needs to continue educational efforts with businesses and the public on other issues.

FOLLOW-UP

The City needs to continue educational efforts on stormwater pollution to businesses and the public. The follow-up telephone survey report showed the areas that need to be addressed. It also showed measureable improvements in the public's awareness and behaviors regarding stormwater pollution. This indicates that improved stormwater quality has already occurred as a result of this project. The City's stormwater GIS database and mapping needs are to be completed by September 2011.

The City has relied heavily on grant money in order to develop and implement the permit requirements. Without additional grant money, the SWMP activities are likely to continue but at minimal levels. After the funding period ends, the City will continue to staff an engineer to implement the permit requirements.

City of Kelso
Agreement #G1000180

GENERAL COMMENTS

The City needs continual funding by the State in order to implement the permit requirements. Adequate funding will help the City do more than minimum permit requirements.